



Winter-run Recovery Proposed Plan

National Marine Fisheries Service has issued a Proposed Recovery Plan for the Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook salmon. The Winter-run salmon are classified as endangered under the ESA, Endangered Species Act.

More than 400 unscreened diversions are located in the Sacramento River and over 2,000 are in the Delta. While most of these diversions are agricultural diversions, some of them are municipal and industrial water users as well. It is the feeling of the agencies that while individually these diversions do not have a severe impact on the salmon, it is the cumulative effect of these diversions on the fish that is of concern. State and Federal agencies are concerned about the entrainment of juveniles at these diversions as the Sacramento River is the main rearing habitat for the salmon during the agricultural diversion season (July through November). This is a time when water is used not only for irrigation but later in the season used for rice decomposition and waterfowl habitat. To remedy this problem National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is recommending the installation and operation of positive barrier fish screens.

NMFS recommends that a plan be developed and implemented to install fish screens at all unscreened or poorly screened diversions on the Sacramento River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh sloughs. The plan includes three major objectives. 1.) Large diversions over 250 cfs and key priority smaller screens will have to be done by 2002. All remaining screens will have to be installed by 2007. This plan would be implemented through Section 7, of the ESA. Any new diver-

sions will require screening. 2.) NMFS is recommending an evaluation of all water rights for operators initiating diversions in the winter for rice-stubble decomposition flooding and waterfowl habitat development. 3.) NMFS is recommending the implementation of a Federal Rule to require the screening of water diversions in the critical habitat natural migratory pathways of Winter-run Chinook.

In addition, NMFS has outlined specific objectives regarding the operation of Red Bluff Diversion Dam. They include the operation of the dam in a gate up position from September 1 through May 14 of each year as well as a complete evaluation of the Archimedes screw pump and the helical pump for their environmental effectiveness in diverting water to the Tehama-Colusa and Corning canals. Recommendations were also made for the operation of GCID and the Delta.

The listing of the Winter-run salmon and other pending listings such as the Spring-run and Steelhead has led FWA to take a proactive position to help farmers and fish. FWA's Small Screen Diversion Program has been in the forefront, assisting small agricultural diverters with funding and the permit process. Currently 4 diversions have been screened and 8 more are slated to be screened late this summer and early fall.

Anyone who is interested in screening their diversion or this program should contact FWA.

FWA Hosts Fish Screen Seminar

On February 26, 1998, Family Water Alliance is sponsoring a fish screen seminar in Festival Hall at the Colusa County Fairgrounds from 1:00 PM until 5:00 pm. The purpose of the 4-hour seminar is to provide a hands-on

opportunity for farmers and landowners to get the latest information on fish screens. This seminar will present a unique opportunity for potential diverters to evaluate screening options, receive an update on screening requirements, learn how they can reduce the financial impact of screening and reserve a place in upcoming programs.

Manufacturers' displays will include prototypes and actual screens with presentations describing screen features. Installers will provide cost estimate figures, logistical problem solving and answer questions. The permit process will be explained by state and federal agency personnel. FWA will review the past success of its Small Screen Diversion Program and provide an opportunity for program sign-ups. Butte Creek Farms, a past participant, will relate their experience with their fish screen design, manufacture and installation process.

The seminar is free. Anyone who is interested in fish screens or salmon protection should plan to attend. At least two hours of the program will be available for attendees to view displays and speak with individual manufacturers and installers.

If you are interested in attending, please fill out the registration form on the back of this insert and send to Family Water Alliance, or call (530) 438-2026.

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FAMILY WATER ALLIANCE

Sacramento River

Small Diversion Fish Screen Program

FISH SCREEN SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 26, 1998 • 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



PARTICIPANTS

CUSTOM TECHNOLOGY, INC.

BUTTE CREEK FARMS

RIVER SOLUTIONS

ALSCO-GEYER IRRIGATION

YUBA CITY STEEL

DAVIS MACHINE

FAMILY WATER ALLIANCE

WILSON PUMPS

CA. DEPT. OF FISH & GAME

LAKOS PLUM CREEK

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

NATIONAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

SERVICE

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

CO-SPONSORED BY: NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

"FISH IN THE RIVER EQUALS WATER ON THE LAND"

THE FREE SEMINAR IS A CHANCE TO:

- VIEW SCREEN PROTOTYPES
- CONTACT SCREEN MANUFACTURERS AND INSTALLERS
- EVALUATE SCREENING OPTIONS
- UPDATE ON SCREENING REQUIREMENTS
- LEARN ABOUT FUNDING
- RESERVE A PLACE IN UPCOMING PROGRAM PHASES

Family Water Alliance presents an educational fish screen seminar for Sacramento River diverters from Sacramento to Shasta Dam.

Conference Location:
Festival Hall
Colusa County Fairgrounds

Mail To:

Seminar Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Size of
diversion (cfs): _____

Location of
diversion:
County: _____

River Mile: _____

FWA

FISH SCREEN SEMINAR

Family Water Alliance

P.O. Box 365

Maxwell, CA 95955

For info, call: (530) 438-2026